

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2009 in which claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-17, and 21-29 were pending and were rejected. Page One of the Office Action ("Office Action Summary") indicated that claims 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, and 16 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicant notes that these claims were previously canceled by Applicant. In view of the following, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10-17, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Crawshaw et al. (U.S. Publ. No. 2001/0042032, hereinafter "Crawshaw"). Further, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Crawshaw in view of Lesk (U.S. Pat. No. 7,249,073).

Aspects described in the present specification relate to a time and expense system including forms containing calls to a services applications program interface (API) to implement and sequence business rules. In one embodiment described beginning on page 11 of the present specification, a services API invokes transactions and/or queries a database. Forms are displayed to a user within a user interface. As described on page 13, lines 2-20, in one embodiment a form that is filled out and submitted by a user calls a services API that is invoked and processes data in the form (see also page 18, line 7- page 19, line 13). In one embodiment, a self-service web application is provided for capturing and processing data using forms having embedded calls to a services API for providing and processing business rules for interacting with a database (see page 18, line 16 – page 20, line 14).

The Office Action continues to maintain that Crawshaw discloses a form having embedded calls to a services API. In particular, page 3 of the Office Action alleges that Crawshaw discloses "embedded calls in the form ([0042] discusses embedded calls in a form)." However, this portion of Crawshaw simply discloses that a user connects to a web site and a web page is displayed on a user's computer by a browser. Using the web page, "The user may make

various selections depending upon the particular functionality desired... Each selection (i.e., each mouse click) is processed by the web server 50 and passed on to the application server 30 which invokes or executes all or part of one or more software programs.” Moreover, Crawshaw specifically states that the special and general purpose software 60, 70 individually or collectively provides the functionality required by the user’s selection. Thus, as clearly can be seen commands and data entered by a user at the web site is simply transmitted from the web page to the application server for processing. Instead, Crawshaw teaches away from embedded calls in a form and does not teach or suggest that a form makes calls to a services API for processing data in the form.

The Office Action also alleges that paragraph [0017] of Crawshaw discloses embedded calls in a form comprising calls to a services API that are automatically invoked by the form. However, paragraph [0017] of Crawshaw simply states that a server can include an applications program or interface that specifies protocol and format for data packets imported into the server from another application. Crawshaw states that an API enables exchange of data between the data server and other web-based software applications but does not relate to embedded calls in a form. Moreover, this section of Crawshaw, as well as the entire Crawshaw reference, does not disclose embedding calls to a services API in a form or invoking the calls when a form is submitted by the user.

In sum, while Crawshaw discloses a system for capturing and processing data, Crawshaw lacks any teaching or suggestion of processing data entered into a form by a user using embedded calls contained in the form. Instead, Crawshaw simply discloses that any data or commands provided by the user into a web page are transmitted to an applications server through a web server for implementation by special purpose software and general purpose software 60, 70 (see page 1A; paragraphs [0038] – [0048], paragraphs [0050] – [0055]). In particular, as described in paragraph [0050], the data submitted by the user through the web server is processed within the application layer 130 (i.e., application server 30) using an event loop 132 and session manager 134 for carrying out the data processing functionality. The event loop and session management provides ad hoc data processing of the form using the special purpose software

residing within the application layer and do not use embedded calls in the form itself. In contrast to the concepts described in Crawshaw, the present application allows increased flexibility and functionality in processing data contained in a form through a project accounting system, for example. The services API invoked by embedded calls in a form can include, for example, submitting the form, approving the form, posting the form, billing, etc. (see Applicant's specification, page 17, line 5 – page 19, line 13).

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the cited Crawshaw reference at least does not teach or suggest “a form comprising fields for data entry by the user , a button for electronic submission of the form, and embedded calls in the form” and “a service application program interface (API) adapted to invoke transactions... for processing data contained within the submitted form, wherein the embedded calls in the form comprise calls to the services API that are automatically invoked by the form when the form is submitted by the user” as claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is in allowable form.

Regarding independent claim 10, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited Crawshaw reference does not teach or suggest a form that includes embedded controls for invoking business rules upon submission by the user or processing at a submitted form with a services API according to business rules that are invoked using embedded controls in the form. Moreover, Applicant respectfully notes that Crawshaw also does not teach or suggest invoking business rules using embedded controls in a form to query an accounting database to return a value as recited in claim 10. Instead, Crawshaw discusses providing interface objects that generate code for display on a user's computer. While the interface object can include the functionality of a form, Crawshaw does not teach or suggest that a form includes embedded controls or that a business rule is invoked by embedded controls in a form to query a database. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is neither taught nor suggested by Crawshaw and is in allowable form.

Regarding independent claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that Crawshaw does not teach or suggest embedded calls in a form or initiating an approval process by invoking embedded calls as claimed. In the rejection of claim 17, the Office Action asserts that paragraph

[0050] of Crawshaw discloses an approval process. Applicant respectfully disagrees and notes that this section of Crawshaw simply discloses that an interface object can be utilized to display an interface on a user's computer. The business object can encapsulate functionality of a form for data. In this manner, Crawshaw simply states that a form can be displayed on a user's computer but does not teach or suggest embedded calls in a form or that transactions invoked by embedded calls include initiating an approval process for a submitted form as claimed. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 17 is neither taught nor suggested by Crawshaw and is in allowable form.

Further, it is submitted that related dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 18-29 are also in allowable form at least based upon their relation to independent claims 1, 10, and 17, discussed above. Additionally, it is believed that at least some of these dependent claims recite features that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited references. For example, dependent claim 27 recites "wherein the transactions invoked by the embedded calls contained in the timesheet form implement the business rules to provide the timesheet form to an administrator for authorization of the user data contained in the timesheet form and at least one of deletion of the timesheet form, modification of the timesheet form, and return of the timesheet form to the user." Crawshaw does disclose embedded calls in a form and does not teach or suggest implementing business rules using embedded calls to provide authorization, deletion, modification, or return of the form as claimed.

Further, dependent claim 28 recites "wherein the embedded calls to the services API invoked by the form define transactions with the project accounting system including querying the project accounting system based on the instantiated business rules to return a value for display in the user interface." As similarly discussed above, Crawshaw does not teach or suggest an embedded call in a form for querying an accounting system to return a value as claimed.

Dependent claim 19 recites "wherein the form comprises a timesheet form and the embedded calls in the timesheet form instantiate an approval process for approving the timesheet form and storing data from the timesheet form to the project accounting system." As similarly

discussed above, Crawshaw does not teach or suggest an embedded call in a form for instantiating an approval process.

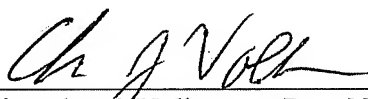
It is noted that these are examples of dependent claims that are believed to be independently patentable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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